

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BOGOTA 008284

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/01/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [SNAR](#) [MASS](#) [PREF](#) [EAID](#) [KJUS](#) [CO](#)

SUBJECT: PLAN COLOMBIA MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS - JULY

Classified By: Ambassador William B. Wood

Reasons: 1.4 (b & d)

11. (U) The following is an update of Plan Colombia activities reported during July 2005.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE/JUDICIAL SECTOR REFORM PROGRAM

12. (U) The Department of Justice Judicial Sector Reform Program (JSRP) provided training to police officers, judges and prosecutors in the following general courses:

--JSRP sponsored "Criminal Trial Advocacy" training in Medellin and Bucaramanga for 120 prosecutors and 60 investigators. This two-week course is designed to prepare police for the implementation of the new Criminal Procedure Code and the new role of the police investigator, covering topics such as preserving evidence, report writing and testimony in court. This course combines classroom instruction with mock court proceedings and other practical exercises.

--"Investigator As a Witness" training was provided to over 800 police officers in eight cities: Bogota, Villavicencio, Bucaramanga, Medellin, Ibague, Cali, Tunja, and Yopal. This intensive two-week course provides training in handling crime scenes, writing police reports, and testimony in court. Classroom training is combined with practical exercises, including mock courtroom proceedings. Colombian prosecutors participate in the mock court proceedings as both defense attorneys and prosecutors.

--The "Police Instructor" course was offered to 180 officers in Medellin. The two-week course is designed to prepare them as instructors in training patrol officers in the accusatory system and the new Criminal Procedure Code. They were instructed in how to handle crime scenes and deliver testimony in court. Instructor training was provided to patrol officers, who will in turn train other officers, in Medellin, Bucaramanga, and Tunja.

--Accusatory system training was provided to 25 police executives in an after-hours course in Bogota.

13. (U) The Anti-Corruption seminar was provided to directors and assistant directors from National Police (CNP), Department of Administrative Security (DAS) and The Prosecutor General's Office Technical Investigative Corps (In Spanish, "Cuerpo Tecnico de Investigaciones" or CTI) in San Andres.

14. (U) JSRP provided assistance to the Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program (ATA), a Plan Colombia program lead by the Regional Security Office, with material for the anti-kidnapping courses for Army Anti-kidnapping Officers (in Spanish, "Grupo de Accion Unificada para la Libertad Personal" or GAULA), involving instruction on the accusatory system and the new Criminal Procedure Code.

MILITARY GROUP

15. (C) The change of command for the 18th Brigade took place on July 8. Brigadier General Gustavo Matamoros Comacho relinquished command of the 18th Brigade, and moved to Bogota to become the 13th Brigade Commander. The 13th Brigade has the responsibility for the Bogota region and is considered one of the most challenging Brigade assignments. Brigadier General Gutierrez, the former COLAR E-2, will become the new 18th Brigade Commander. Gutierrez has had a productive working relationship with the Military Group (Milgroup) and Southern Command (SOUTHCOM). He has worked on various military activities (CIME, CITEC, and the COLAR RIMES, for example) during his tenure as E-2. Milgroup does not expect any negative impact to the Infrastructure Security Strategy (ISS) or Infrastructure Protection Strategy.

16. (C) The new Colombian presidential aircraft arrived in Colombia on July 2, and pilot training began on July 3. The official inauguration ceremony was held July 6. The aircraft flew its first mission to Costa Rica on July 7, and President Alvaro Uribe traveled to Spain in the new aircraft on July 9.

17. (U) Ambassador Wood, COL Graves (DAO), and COL Trombitas (Milgroup) met with new Minister of Defense (MOD) Camilo Ospina on July 9, prior to his oath of office on July 18, 2005. Ospina stated he hopes to improve the military justice system and neutralize High Value Targets (HVTs). He is committed to continuing a productive working relationship with his USG interlocutors.

18. (U) CAPT Pete Husta, interim Milgroup commander, was in Cartagena from July 21-25, to participate in naval training activities (UNITAS Exercises).

Narcotic Affairs Section

19. (U) The Narcotic Affairs Section (NAS) sponsored a series of training seminars titled "Handling Chemical Substances and Bio-Safety in the Destruction of Illegal Drug Manufacturing Labs." The Colombian Government's National Drug Directorate (DNE) facilitated the seminars for members of the Colombian Army's Counter Drug Brigade at Larandia (Caqueta). The course offers instruction in identification, proper handling, and destruction of precursor chemicals. Additionally, they were instructed how to complete reports of their findings to authorities for appropriate judicial processing.

Regional Security Office

110. (U) The Regional Security Office (RSO) has conducted a host of activities in support of the Anti-Kidnapping Initiative. To date, a total of 271 GAULA personnel have completed training.

111. (U) In July, the CNP GAULA in Neiva/Pereira, composed of 24 members, officially received its equipment. This group completed training March 4.

112. (U) The Army GAULA Santander, composed of 24 members, graduated from the tactical training course at Sibate. The equipment for this group has entered the final certification process, and should be ready for donation soon.

113. (U) The equipment for donation to CNP GAULA in Bucaramanga, Manizales, and Valledupar (CRT-6), composed of 31 members, and Army GAULA Casanare (CRT-7), composed of 33 members, is awaiting the final certification for donation. It is anticipated that the donations will be completed at the end of August.

114. (U) With the final donation of equipment mentioned above, ATA Bogota will have finally resolved all the outstanding issues related to equipment donation. The delay in delivering equipment, unfortunately, had created misunderstanding between the GOC and the USG. With the remaining final donations scheduled, all the ATA-trained GAULA groups will have their donated equipment.

115. (U) With the delivery of the equipment for GAULAs 1-9, these units will have received equipment valued at approximately \$2.3 million.

116. (U) The ATA began training the first Colombian Military naval group, GAULA Sucre, comprised of 28 individuals. This group is scheduled to complete training in September 2005.

117. (U) The Integrated Extortion and Kidnapping Information (in Spanish, "Sistema Integrado de Informacion Extorsion y Secuestro" or SIIES) Team has continued its effort to link the databases of several Colombian government entities. The participating entities include the CNP, Fiscalia, Medicina Legal, and National Registry, Financial Investigation and Analysis (in Spanish, "Unidad Investigacion y Analisis Financiero" or UIAF), but does not include the DAS. The SIIES Team has completed the linking of the CNP and Fiscalia databases to SIIES. Currently, the SIIES team is working to link the existing shared databases with the UIAF database.

118. (U) The GAULA Cundinamarca Pilot continued initial training for its first group of users. Installation of WAN software at the first ten GAULA units was completed. The Legal Assistance Module Pilot was begun in conjunction with the Case Management Module Pilot.

119. (U) The Presidential Security Protection Program (PSP) staff conducted two advanced dignitary protection courses for members of President Uribe's protective details.

USAID

120. (U) USAID's Agriculture and Alternative Development Program (AD) completed planting of a total of 69,187 hectares

of licit crops as of June 30, 2005. The original five-year goal was to support 65,042 hectares through FY2005. However, due to accelerated implementation in FY05, USAID is working to support 19,270 hectares for a cumulative total of 74,341 by the end of the fiscal year. The AD program promotes a broad range of economic and social alternatives to illicit crop production and is particularly active in the agricultural, small and medium enterprise, and commercial forestry sectors. Program activities are underway in 17 departments nationwide.

121. (U) On June 24, USAID's Internally Displaced Persons program, through its implementing partner the Pan American Development Foundation, inaugurated a cassava (a root that is grown in the tropics, eaten as a staple food after drying and leaching, and is the source of tapioca) processing plant in Mutata (Antioquia). The project will improve the incomes of roughly 240 families from the municipalities of Mutata, Chigorodo and Carepa. USAID's US\$83,127 contribution to the total project cost leveraged US\$293,834 from the Fundacion Social de Uniban, the Department of Antioquia, and the municipality of Mutata, among others.

122. (U) USAID's Internally Displaced Persons Employment and Recycling project, implemented through the Pan American Development Foundation and Co-Development Foundation (in Spanish, "Fundacion Codesarrollo"), signed strategic alliance agreements with three cooperatives in Bucaramanga (Santander), Pereira (Risaralda), and Cartagena (Bolívar) to expand its Plastic Recycling Network. To date the project has benefited 140 individuals in five municipalities, and will eventually serve 210 new beneficiaries as a result of the agreements. Project beneficiaries currently earn an average monthly income of US\$230 (150% of the Colombian minimum wage) for selling the recyclable material they collect.

123. (U) Through implementing partners CHF International and the Colombian Social Solidarity Network (RSS), USAID completed the construction of an Indigenous Center in San Juan del Cesar (La Guajira). The Center will provide the Wiwa tribe a temporary place in which to live. It will additionally serve as a meeting center, and a central location where persons can obtain medical attention and other support as required during temporary displacement. Due to violence generated by illegal armed groups, many leaders and members of this tribe have been killed or displaced. This situation has weakened the cultural roots of the Wiwas and other indigenous groups. By providing this center, it is expected the tribe will be able to continue to practice its rituals and maintain its rich cultural heritage.

WOOD